

From: MichaelPiehl
Affiliation:
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Comment: Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement Amendment for the Northeast portion of the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska.

Dear sirs/madams:

1

Please consider this to be my official comment on the NPR-A DEIS and please select Alternative A (no action), the 1998 Plan and EIS should be preferred.

2

The following areas should always be protected. Alternatives B and C do not protect these areas:

- Kasegaluk Lagoon - home to beluga whales, spotted seals and black brant
- Utukok Uplands - critical calving grounds for hundreds of thousands of arctic caribou
- Colville River - supports a world-class population of nesting birds of prey
- Peard Bay - roamed by polar bears and visited by tens of millions of migratory waterfowl

- Teshekpuk Lake/Meade River region - threatened spectacled eiders nest each year

- Kasegaluk Lagoon - home to beluga whales, spotted seals and black brant

No drilling or roads or pipelines or motorized land vehicles should ever be allowed in these areas.

003
Socio-
cultural

The importance of the NPR to native people should be considered. Their traditional lifestyle should always be given preference to development.

4

The Arctic Region contains some of the most fragile ecosystems on Earth in the harshest environment. It has an incredible diversity of life and incredible scientific value. The NPR is the largest de facto Wilderness in the United States. It should be protected. Industrialization in the Arctic is irreversible. The NPR should never become another Prudoe Bay which is a deplorable industrial mess.

5

The proposed DEIS is not balanced - alternative B and C are petroleum industry giveaways. The BLM's proposed DEIS is obviously politically motivated--based on the current administration's flawed, shortsighted Energy Policy that was developed in secret and lacks public support and Congressional support. Drill and consume is an irrational strategy for the use of a finite, exhaustible resource. The Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) of motor vehicles in the U.S. has not changed in more than 20 years. Until CAFE is raised significantly, there should be a moratorium on all drilling in the Arctic. Conservation must be part of the equation for petroleum use. In addition, harmful energy sources should be taxed and ones that are not should be subsidized (geothermal, solar, wind, tidal).

Thank you for considering my comments.
Sincerely,

Michael M. Piehl

CC: Senator Gordon Smith, Senator Ron Wyden, Congressman Peter DeFazio

Website Comment **196572**

196572 (Cont'd)

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Attached: NPR-A DEIS Comment Letter.doc